

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Closure,
Chaland Pass to Barataria, West of Bayou Lafourche

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:6.1 which provides the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with authority to declare a closed season on any and all species of fish found or existing in the waters of the state, and a resolution adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 6, 2010 which granted the secretary the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, of inside waters to shrimping based upon biological and technical data, the secretary hereby closes to all recreational and commercial fishing that portion of state outside waters seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line as described in R.S. 56:495 extending from the eastern shore of Chaland Pass at 89 degrees 44 minutes 06.3 seconds west longitude to the eastern shore of Barataria Pass at 89 degrees 56 minutes 44 seconds west longitude and that portion of inside waters from the western shore of Bayou Lafourche westward to 90 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, north of 29 degrees 10 minutes 16 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 14 minutes 00 seconds north latitude will close effective sunset May 21, 2010.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life. Based upon confirmed reports of oil within a portion of this area, the secretary has determined that this area shall close to all recreational and commercial fishing effective sunset May 21, 2010.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary

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